

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A live performance system including n live performance providing apparatuses for producing and distributing live performance, n being an integer not smaller than one and the live performance providing apparatuses being connected through a communication network,

each live performance providing apparatus comprising:

output means for outputting a live performance guide output based on at least one of synchronization information and a live performance signal supplied from an other of the apparatus connected to the communication network,

capturing means for capturing a content performed in accordance with the live performance guide output from the output means as a live performance signal, and

transmitter means for transmitting one of the live performance signal captured by the capturing means, a live performance signal obtained by synthesizing the live performance signal captured by the capturing means and a live performance signal supplied by the other apparatus,

wherein the n live performance providing apparatuses are assigned first through n-th connection orders;

the live performance providing apparatus having the first connection order transmits the live performance signal captured by the capturing means and the synchronization information to the live performance providing apparatus having a second connection order through the transmitter means;

each of the live performance providing apparatuses having the second through the n-th connection orders outputs the

live performance guide output through the output means based on at least one of the synchronization information and the live performance signal transmitted from the live performance providing apparatus having an immediately prior connection order; and

when the live performance providing apparatuses having the second through the (n-1)-th connection orders exist each of the second through (n-1)-th live performance providing apparatuses transmits the supplied synchronization information and the live performance signal obtained by synthesizing the live performance signal captured by the capturing means and the live performance signal supplied by the live performance providing apparatus having an immediately prior connection order to the live performance providing apparatus having a subsequent connection order.

2. (previously presented) The live performance system according to claim 1, wherein the live performance providing apparatus having the n-th connection order synthesizes the live performance signal captured by the capturing means and the live performance signal supplied by the live performance providing apparatus having the immediately prior connection order, thereby obtaining a complete live performance signal as a result of synthesizing live performance signals captured by all of the live performance providing apparatuses, wherein the live performance providing apparatus having the n-th connection order transmits at least the complete live performance signal to a predetermined live performance providing apparatus through the transmitter means.

3. (previously presented) The live performance system according to claim 1, comprising a live performance management device communicably connected to each of the live performance providing apparatuses through the communication network, the live performance management device including:

synchronization correction means that performs a synchronization correction process to each live performance signal based on the respective synchronization information when a plurality of live performance signals each associated with synchronization information is supplied by the live performance providing apparatuses; and

synthesizer means for synthesizing the live performance signals that have been synchronization corrected through the synchronization correction means to obtain a complete live performance signal.

4. (previously presented) The live performance system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a live performance management device communicably connected to each of the live performance providing apparatuses through the communication network,

wherein each of the live performance providing apparatuses having the second through the (n-1)-th connection orders includes synthesis information setting means for providing synthesis information that sets a synthesis process through which the live performance signal captured by the capturing means and the live performance signal transmitted from the live performance providing apparatus having an immediately prior connection order are synthesized; and

the live performance management device includes coefficient setting means for transmitting a setting control signal for setting the synthesis information to the synthesis information setting means of each of the live performance providing apparatuses.

5. (previously presented) The live performance system according to claim 4, wherein the live performance management device comprises:

synchronization correction means for performing a synchronization correction process on the live performance signal based on the synchronization information when a plurality of live performance signals each associated with the synchronization information is supplied by the live performance providing apparatuses;

synthesizer means for synthesizing the live performance signals that have been synchronization corrected through said synchronization correction means to obtain a complete live performance signal; and

replay means for replaying the complete live performance signal obtained by the synthesizer means.

6. (previously presented) The live performance system according to claim 1, further comprising a live performance management device communicably connected to each of the live performance providing apparatuses through the communication network and including synchronization information transmitter means which transmits the synchronization information to the

live performance providing apparatus having the first connection order.

7. (previously presented) The live performance system according to claim 1, wherein at least the live performance providing apparatus having the first connection order includes synchronization information generator means for generating the synchronization information.

8. (previously presented) A live performance system including n live performance providing apparatuses for producing and distributing live performance, n being an integer not smaller than one, and a live performance management device with each of the live performance providing apparatuses being connected to the live performance management device through a communication network,

each of the live performance providing apparatuses comprising:

output means for outputting a live performance guide output based on synchronization information supplied from an other apparatus connected to the communication network,

capturing means for capturing a content performed in accordance with the live performance guide output from the output means as a live performance signal;

first transmitter means for transmitting the supplied synchronization information and the live performance signal

captured by the capturing means to the other apparatus connected to the communication network; and

second transmitter means for transmitting the supplied synchronization information to the other apparatus connected to the communication network;

and the live performance management device comprising:

synchronization correction means for performing a synchronization correction process on the live performance signal based on the respective synchronization information when a plurality of live performance signals each associated with the synchronization information is supplied by the live performance providing apparatuses; and

synthesizer means for synthesizing the live performance signals that have been synchronization corrected through said synchronization correction means to obtain a complete live performance signal,

wherein the live performance providing apparatuses are assigned first through n-th connection orders;

each of the live performance providing apparatuses transmits the live performance signal together with the synchronization information to the live performance management device through the first transmitter means; and

each of the live performance providing apparatuses having the second through the n-th connection orders provides a live performance guide output based on the synchronization information transmitted from the second transmitter means of the live performance providing apparatus having an immediately prior connection order.

9-14 (canceled)

15. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A live performance providing apparatus ~~according to claim 14~~ for producing and distributing a live performance, comprising:

output means for outputting a live performance guide output based on supplied synchronization information;

capturing means for capturing a content performed in response to the live performance guide output from the output means as a live performance signal;

transmitter means for transmitting supplied synchronization information together with the live performance signal captured by the capturing means to an other apparatus connected to a communication network;

receiver means for receiving a signal supplied through the communication network, wherein the supplied synchronization information is extracted from the signal received by the receiver means;

signal processor means for subjecting the live performance signal captured by the capturing means to one of a mixing and panning coefficient process and an acoustic effect process, wherein information setting the process of the signal processor means is contained in the signal received by the receiver means, and wherein the transmitter means transmits the supplied synchronization information together with the live

performance signal processed by the signal processor means to the other apparatus connected to the communication network; and

synthesizer means for synthesizing the live performance signal processed by the signal processor means and the live performance signal received by the receiver means, wherein the transmitter means transmits the output of the synthesizer means together with the supplied synchronization information to the other apparatus connected to the communication network,

wherein information setting the process of the signal processor means is contained in the signal received by the receiver means.

16. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A live performance providing apparatus according to claim 12 for producing and distributing a live performance, comprising:

output means for outputting a live performance guide output based on supplied synchronization information;

capturing means for capturing a content performed in response to the live performance guide output from the output means as a live performance signal;

transmitter means for transmitting supplied synchronization information together with the live performance signal captured by the capturing means to an other apparatus connected to a communication network;

receiver means for receiving a signal supplied through the communication network, wherein the supplied synchronization

information is extracted from the signal received by the receiver means, and wherein the signal received by the receiver means is a live performance signal associated with the synchronization information transmitted from the other apparatus, and the output means outputs the live performance guide output based on at least one of the synchronization information and the live performance signal; and

synthesizer means for synthesizing the live performance signal captured by the capturing means and the live performance signal received by the receiver means, wherein the transmitter means transmits the output of the synthesizer means together with the supplied synchronization information to the other apparatus connected to the communication network,

wherein information setting the process of the signal processor means is contained in the signal received by the receiver means.

17-21 (canceled)

22. (previously presented) A live performance method for producing and distributing live performance through a communication network using a plurality of live performance providing apparatuses each having first through n-th connection orders, n being an integer not smaller than one, and each of the plurality of apparatuses being connected through the communication network, the live performance method comprising the steps of:

transmitting synchronization information together with a captured live performance signal from a live performance providing apparatus having a first connection order to a live performance providing apparatus having a second connection order;

outputting a live performance guide output from each of the live performance providing apparatuses having the second through n-th connection orders based on at least one of the synchronization information and the live performance signal transmitted from a live performance providing apparatus having an immediately prior connection order;

transmitting when there exist said live performance providing apparatuses having the second through the (n-1)-th connection orders from each of the second through (n-1)-th live performance providing apparatuses transmits to a live performance providing apparatus having a subsequent connection order the synchronization information supplied by the live performance providing apparatus having an immediately prior connection order together with a live performance signal obtained by synthesizing the captured live performance signal and the live performance signal supplied by the live performance providing apparatus having the immediately prior connection order; and

transmitting a complete live performance signal to a predetermined apparatus, wherein the live performance providing apparatus having the n-th connection order synthesizes the captured live performance signal and the live performance signal transmitted from the live performance providing apparatus having the immediately prior connection order to generate the complete live performance signal.

23. (previously presented) A live performance method for producing and distributing live performance through a communication network, using a plurality of live performance providing apparatuses having first through n-th connection orders, n being an integer not smaller than one, and a live performance management device being communicably connected to each of the live performance providing apparatuses through the communication network, the live performance method comprising the steps of:

transmitting synchronization information together with a captured live performance signal from a live performance providing apparatus having a first connection order to a live performance providing apparatus having a second connection order;

outputting a live performance guide output from each of the live performance providing apparatuses having the second through n-th connection orders based on at least one of the synchronization information and the live performance signal transmitted from a live performance providing apparatus having an immediately prior connection order;

transmitting when there exist said live performance providing apparatuses having the second through the (n-1)-th connection orders from each of the second through (n-1)-th live performance providing apparatuses transmits, to a live performance providing apparatus having a subsequent connection order the synchronization information supplied by the live performance providing apparatus having an immediately prior connection order together with a live performance signal obtained by synthesizing a captured live performance signal and

the live performance signal supplied by the live performance providing apparatus having the immediately prior connection order;

transmitting the captured live performance signal from each of the live performance providing apparatus having the first through n-th connection orders together with the supplied synchronization information to the live performance management device; and

generating a complete live performance signal by performing a synchronization correction process on the live performance signal from each of the live performance providing apparatuses in accordance with the synchronization information and by performing a synthesis process on the synchronization corrected live performance signal.